

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

The FCC's actions in recent years to turn the communications media into a conglomerate controlled by a few corporations who are beholden to the government has been to turn the airwaves and other media into a de facto Ministry of Propaganda for the government. That is not what was mandated when the original FCC was enabled. It was to protect the public access to the airwaves.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.